

November 28, 1972

Honorable Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dick:

In my letter of November 13, 1972, I expressed some concern over the Critical Collection Problems Committee (CCPC) study on Intelligence Activities Against Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. We have completed our review of the study and I wish to make a few observations which I hope will be helpful to you.

The CCPC study does not fully reflect the responsibilities assigned to the ONNI by Executive Order 11676, July 27, 1972. This may have resulted in part from the fact that the CCPC paper was already in draft before the ONNI was created.

Conclusion S of the report states that "The number and diversity of U.S. Government elements involved in narcotics information collection or law enforcement action abroad makes it exceptionally difficult for a clear picture to be formed at the national level of the overall U.S. intelligence effort against the narcotics target worldwide. While ONNI should over a period of time be able to fulfill this function with respect to domestic activities, it cannot and need not be expected to do so with respect to U.S. narcotics intelligence activities abroad."

Conclusion T of the CCPC study states "There is thus a need for an objective body independent of parochial departmental and agency interests to review and monitor continuously the narcotics intelligence effort abroad and to assess overall U.S. intelligence efforts against illicit narcotics activities."

The study then goes on to propose in Recommendation 18 that this responsibility be discharged by the CCPC.

FBI review(s)
completed.

EXEMPTED FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY _____
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In my opinion Conclusions S and T, and Recommendation 18 of the CCPC study fail to take into account the role and mission which have been vested by the President in the ONNI. I base this on the fact that the national character of ONNI's assignment is specifically set forth in the President's Executive Order 11676. Furthermore, issuance of the Order was followed by the President's transmittal to the Congress of the request for a supplemental appropriation, specifying that the mission of ONNI is "to coordinate the determination of narcotics intelligence requirements and the collection, analysis, and dissemination of narcotics intelligence from both overseas and domestic sources."

Having noted some of the ambiguities, I should also state that the study is a valuable review of the narcotics intelligence situation. It has identified significant gaps, noted the need for closer coordination throughout the community (for which ONNI was established) and the study has specifically identified narcotics intelligence collection requirements.

Since there are unclear areas, and there are others aside from those noted above, I would urge that the study be reconsidered prior to final review by the USIB. We should be pleased to attend any working session of the CCPC or furnish detailed comments or suggestions concerning our views. I feel certain that whatever differences exist at this time can be easily reconciled through such a meeting. There is no need, of course, to discuss the question of the direct collection of intelligence, conduct of actual investigations or law enforcement because ONNI is not authorized to engage in such activities.

I think you will agree that it would be beneficial for representatives of our organizations to resolve the issues beforehand, in order that we can stand on a common ground at the coming USIB meeting. This, of course, can be done within a context of mutual cooperation.

SECRET

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Thank you again for the willing assistance you have given me so often in the past. It is deeply appreciated.

Cordially,

William C. Sullivan
Director

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